became over-aged. This was a bar to their entertainment in the public service. They should therefore be exempted from the rule regarding age-limit for entertainment in the public service for some more time to come.

The Muslims were backward in education. The Government have done something for promoting education among them such as grant of fee concessions and institution of close scholarships. But the grant-in-aid schools were not giving the fee concessions to Muslim pupils. The grant of concessions in these schools also should be arranged for with the managers who should be compensated for the loss caused thereby. The member also said that, if it was a fact that the fee concessions were to be withdrawn, the withdrawal should not be sanctioned.

Primary education should be made compulsory among Muslims.

Grants should be awarded to reading rooms and libraries maintained by Muslims.

There should be at least two Muslims in the Legislative Council to represent the community. According to the existing grouping of constituencies, the Muslims had no chance of being returned in election. The policy of nominating Muslims to remove this defect was not desirable inasmuch as a nominated member could not effectively represent the community as much as an elected member. Separate electorates should therefore be created for the Muslim community. If this could not be done, one more Muslim should be nominated to the Council.

Copies of the *Koran* should be removed from courts. Swearing by the *Koran* was prohibited and therefore the Government by keeping the book for this purpose were affording facilities to the Muslims to do an irreligious act. This was a source of grievance to the community and it should be redressed by ordering the removal of the book from courts.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Moideen Pillai, I must refer you to my answer to the previous speakers in regard to most of the points of your representation. The only point I would add is that exemption from the rule regarding age-limit cannot be given generally; the matter will be placed before the Recruitment Committee.

Under existing orders, Mahomedan pupils, boys and girls, are allowed fee concessions; and special scholarships are also awarded to them.

I have already said that it is not the policy of Government to introduce compulsion in primary education.

In regard to the nomination of two Muslim members to the Legislative Council; there are already two Muslim members, one nominated and the other elected. That seems to be sufficient.

160. Needs of Church of England Christians.

MR. KURUVILA JOHN (*Karunagapalli taluk, Group II*) said that the Church of England Christians formed one of the prominent

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

communities of the State but that they were not represented in the Legislative Council, the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, the Text-Book Committees and other popular institutions. Jacobites, Mar Thomites and Roman Catholics were nominated to popular institutions and even L. M. S. Christians of South Travancore were given this privilege under the denomination of Protestants. The Anglicans were in no way inferior to other denominations of Christians in population, education, civic consciousness or in public activities. The first prayer of the member was therefore that the claims of his community should not be ignored in making nominations to the Council, Assembly and other representative institutions and they should be considered to have equal status with other denominations of Christians.

The Church of England Christians were not adequately represented in the public service. In making appointments, the principle of communal representation combined with efficiency should be followed. There would then be no cause for discontent. According to his information there were no Church of England Christians in the Account Office and the Land Revenue, Industries, Agriculture, Co-operative, Ayurveda and Public Health Departments. Of the total number of officers in the whole State, Church of England Christians formed but an insignificant percentage. They were not backward in education. The grievances of the community in this respect should be redressed.

Lastly, he stated that several members of his community were poor and could not educate their children. It was the duty of Government to encourage them in education. A certain number of scholarships should therefore be instituted for the members of his community in schools and colleges.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. John, so far as the Government are concerned, the Church of England Christians have the same status as Christians of other denominations.

The question of further nominations to the Legislative Council and to the Assembly will be considered when the rules and constitution of those bodies are revised.

The rules, at the moment, as regards the award of scholarshipss are that they are reserved for people of the backward and depressed classes. Until those rules are altered, your community will not come in. And, at this moment of financial strain, it is not likely that the rules will be extended.

I can only say, regarding recruitment to pubic service, what I have said so often to-day, namely, that your claims will be duly considered.

161. Adequate representation of Tamil Ezhavas in the State service.

MR. R. RAMASWAMI (*Nominated*) said that the Tamil Ezhavas numbered about 30,000 and they lived mostly in the taluks of Tovala, Agastisvaram, Kalkulam, Shencotta, Devicolam and Peermade. There

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly